How to Give a Shahadah in 10 Minutes

tips, tools and training providing effective methods of giving dawah

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Understanding Your Obligation

"and you can not guide the blind from their straying; you can make to hear only those who believe in Our Ayat (proofs , evidences, verses, signs) and have submitted to Allah in Islam (s Muslims)...."

(Al-Rum 30:53)

" And who is better in speech from the one who calls to the way of his Lord and does good deeds and says I am from amongst the Muslims"

Great Reward

"Whoever guides [another] to a good deed will get a reward similar to the one who performs it." [Saheeh Muslim]

"By Allah, if Allah were to guide one man through you it would be better for you than the best type of camels." [al-Bukhaaree, Muslim]

Two Types of Guidance (Hidaya)

1. Hidayat ul irshaad: Our Duty

   Trying to direct someone to the truth

2. Hidayat ul tawfiq: From Allah

   When Allah opens a persons heart to Islam.

Obstacles on the Path to getting a Shahadah

1. Expecting Instant Results
2. “I don’t have enough knowledge”
3. “I myself am in need of dawah”
4. Too Shy
5. Not knowing who you’re talking to

Excuses for Not taking the Shahadah

1. Looking for a “sign”
2. Misconceptions about Islam/Muslims/Religion
3. Problems are caused by religion
4. Influences of family and society
5. Problems apply across the board

The Various Dawah Methods

1. Pamphlet pushing
2. Group Dawah
3. One-on-one style street Dawah
4. One-on-one sit down Dawah
5. Internet Dawah
6. Indirect Dawah

Pamphlet Pushing

Setting: Areas with heavy traffic

- Goal is to hand out as much material as possible.
- Requires a plan for canvassing the area
- Not much talking
- Cover the entire pathway so you don't miss a single person!
- Have a catch phrase to arouse interest! "Take it or hear it!"
- Know what you're handing out.

Group Dawah

Setting: Giving a talk or lecture to a group of people

1. Stick to the point

2. The Rules are the same!

* Make sure you don't misrepresent Islam!

ONE on ONE
Street Dawah

1. Time is of the essence. Be efficient!
2. Travel in groups or pairs.
3. Take security into consideration!

* Walk with me!

ONE on ONE Sit-Down

A detail oriented theological discussion; usually pre-planned

1. Begin with how much the person knows on Islam, diagnose to find problem

2. You have time, but still use it wisely!

3. Listen, don't interrupt and let them finish.

4. If the person has studied Islam: find the core issue that is keeping him/her from Islam.

* Common Problem: If they repeat an argument, rephrase and say it back to them

Dawah through the Internet or mail

Setting: the use of email, chat rooms, IM or letters to propagate Islam.

1. Send links to websites for further reading.

2. Stick to the point

* Men communicate with men and women communicate with women!

Do's and Don'ts

These are helpful tips

to help you use every potential asset to your best possible advantage.

P DOs:

1. Be patient: be prepared to run across people who don't want your dawah
2. Be straight forward.
3. Avoid unnecessary confrontations, arguments... simply move on!
4. Keep your eye on the ball and keep the ball rolling.
5. Have a partner with you.

P DOs:

6. Use simple language
7. Understand needs, obstacles and issues
8. Listen with your eyes and your ears. 70-80% of communication is non-verbal
9. Try to coin statements into a positive manner, highlight words like “good” & “yes”
10. Be neat and clean in appearance.

P DOs:

11. Get your Prospect to listen:
- ü Nod
- ü Use open gestures
- ü Lean forward
- ü Maintain eye contact but don't stare

12. Smile

13. Find points to agree upon

    Present them with concepts that will get you a 'yes'.

P DOs:

14. Acknowledge their questions as intelligent
    - " That's a good question"
    - "I'm actually glad you brought that point up"
    - "I can see why you understood it that way"
15. Ask for a name
16. Find out the beliefs of your prospect
17. Avoid human obstacles (partner)

P DO:

U Don'ts:

- Don’t start by attacking or being aggressive
  - people become defensive and put a mental block
- Don’t use an approach that may annoy people
- Don’t be evasive
- Never use the 'lets not push him' technique

U Don'ts:

- Never interrupt a person giving dawah
  - unless VERY GOOD REASON or you have a good point your partner overlooked
- Don’t Begin a sentence with “No” or " What you need to understand".
  - Don't use 'but' it erases all that was said before it. Instead use" I agree -Agreeing is important
- Don’t get into a negotiation.

Don'ts:

- Give up if the person seems uninterested or makes fun of you.
- Falsify nor exaggerate information
- Misrepresent Islam's position regarding the other party

  "Don't make the kaafir comfortable with his Kufr"!
- MAKE A JUDGEMENT BASED ON LOOKS!

Methods and Techniques

- Avoiding Handshakes
- Using the name “ Allah”
- Clothing: thobe vs. pants
- Using aggression appropriately

Walk –away points

Depends on the type of Dawah

- but what would they be?

Part II

Understanding Dawah
From the Quran

125 ادْعُ إِلِى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُم بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ

"Call to the way prescribed by you Lord with *wisdom* and with fine *admonition*, and debate with them in the best manner." {Soorat an Nahl (16) 125}

وَلَا تُجَادِلُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ وَقُولُوا آمَنَّا بِالَّذِي أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَأُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَإِلَهُنَا وَإِلَهُكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

"And do not debate with the People of the Book except with the BEST WORDS,(calling to Allah by means of His signs and by drawing attention to the proofs He has provided)…{Surat al-Ankaboot (20):46}

Understanding Dawah
From the Quran

قُلْ هَـذِهِ سَبِيلِي أَدْعُو إِلَى اللّهِ عَلَى بَصِيرَةٍ أَنَاْ وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَنِي وَسُبْحَانَ اللّهِ وَمَا أَنَاْ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

" Say, O Muhammad, this is my way: I call to Allah (alone), upon *certain knowledge* (baseerah) myself and those who follow me, and Allah is free from all imperfections and partners, and I am free from those who associate anything in worship along with Him." {Surat Yoosuf (12):108}

Knowledge

Hadith:

- **" Whoever calls to guidance then there is for him a reward like the rewards of those who follow him and that will reduce nothing from their rewards, and whoever calls to misguidance will have sin upon him like the sins of those who follow him, and that will reduce nothing from their sin."**

- **"Allah and the angels , and even the ant in its nest and the fish in the sea will pray for the one who teaches people good things."**

Patience

- وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُواْ عَلَى مَا كُ ذِّبُواْ وَأُوذُواْ حَتَّى أَتَاهُمْ نَصْرُنَا وَلاَ مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللّهِ وَلَقَدْ جَ اءكَ مِن نَّبَإِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

- **“Indeed messengers before you, Muhammad, were denied and rejected but they *patiently* bore the denial, rejection and harm of their people until Our aid came to them.”**

- كَذَلِكَ مَا أَتَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّاقَالُوا سَاحِرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ

- **“Likewise no messenger came to the previous people except that the said, He I a sorcerer and/or madman.”**

- وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِي نَ وَكَفَى بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا

- **“And for each of the prophets We have made an enemy from the idol worshippers”**

Patience

- إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ تَنزِيلًا

“Indeed it is We who have sent down this Quran to you, Gradualy. ”

- فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تُطِعْ مِنْهُمْ آثِمًا أَوْ كَفُورًا

“So be patient with what your Lord has decreed.”

The Simplicity of the Matter…

- **(They said: "Are you the one who has done this to our gods, O Ibrahim'' He said: "Nay, this one, the biggest of them did it...'') referring to the one he had left alone and had not broken.**
- **(Ask them, if they can speak!) He was hoping that they would admit of their own volition that these idols could not speak and that this idol would not say anything because it was inanimate.**
- **(64. So they turned to themselves and said: "Verily, you are the wrongdoers.'') (65. Then they turned to themselves: "Indeed you know well that these speak not!'') (66. He said: "Do you then worship besides Allah, things that can neither profit you nor harm you'') (67. "Fie upon you, and upon that which you worship besides Allah! Have you then no sense'')**

The Simplicity of the Matter…

- **The Questionnaire**
- **Questions you can ask**
  - **What is the Purpose of Life?**
  - **Gods in Thailand.**

Most people think problems with their religion automatically apply to others.

Thinking Outside of the Box

- **Trinity: three in one or one in three?**
- **How many Gods where there when Jesus died for three days?**
- **Why never an explicit mention of Trinity in the Bible, since it is the crux of the religion?**

Trinitarian Analogies…

The Egg

The flame

Water

Using Stories and Analogies

When doing this make sure you utilize the following guidelines:

- Begin with the most simple explanations first, and the more complicated as the situation necessitates.
- Make comparisons to the *dunya*.

Kill someone if apostatize, cut off hands.
(Keep your eye on the ball!)

Using Stories and Analogies

1. Put the religion under the microscope.
2. Human value system
3. Evil and the Jar of darkness
4. Religion and violence
    a. Most violence not because of religion
    b. Media, politics vs. pure teaching to kill
5. Women polygyny 1+1=2
6. Concept of Justice and resurrection

Using Stories and Analogies

cont…

7. Prophet continuation chart

8. Organized religion

9. Fun and Happiness

10. The names of *Jesus* and *Moses* mentioned in Quran more than *Mohammed* .

Using Stories and Analogies

cont…

11. *Tawheed* = no partner. Mention children, wives, friends helpers, ridiculous .

12. Explain concept/ logic, then ask if there is a problem with that logic

Why do people convert?

1. Agrees with human nature and makes sense
2. Prayers
3. Solutions to Social ailments
4. Devotion of Islam's followers

* *The conversion of Hamza RA*

Create the Sense of Urgency

1. Uqbah ibn abi Mueet
2. Omar ibn Al khattab
3. Abu sufyaan
4. Say “La ilaha ilalah”

How to approach people

Direct and Indirect approaches

How to approach people

Indirect Approach

1. Dawah through manners and behavior
2. Having a discussion with a friend or partner intending for non-Muslims to hear
3. Performing acts of worship in Public
    a. Prayer at Airport
    b. Foot in the sink!
    c. Picture of the Kaaba
4. Leaving pamphlets on train and bus seats/ bus stations/doorsteps/ hotel rooms/ Dr. office etc
5. Bumper stickers
6. Other methods?

How to approach people

Direct Approach

1. **If you have a dawah table**

2. **In street dawah the approach is very straight forward.**
   -Very direct. What is the purpose of life?

3. **But in an elevator or store? How? What ways are there to strike up a conversation?**

How to approach people

Direct Approach

1. **Are you a Muslim?**

   - **Why not?**
   - **From this response, you see how far or close they are to Islam.**

Scenario…Someone believes in God but not organized religion?

1. Disorganized ?
2. Fallacy of religion and war.
3. Evil in the world/ Jar of darkness.
4. What is good and what is bad?
5. Science & Quran
   * SIT DOWN RULE: USE A SHEET OF PAPER AND WRITE POINTS AGREED UPON ! WHY?
6. Islam fastest growing religion for a reason
7. All claim to have the truth, put religion under the microscope

Atheist

1. Building in desert /watch in the woods. Ridiculous to come from nothing.
2. How did we hear of creator?
3. Fairness/ sending prophets
4. Justice.
5. Authored a Book
6. Sit-down
7. Fastest growing religions.

Two theories:

1. 'Strong faith' shake the foundations , when they reel back then show them Islam

   e.g. Mormons

2. 'weaker faith', don't get into biblical debate unless necessary, just present Islam, it makes more sense and is more acceptable in its theories

   " You don't need to know the other religion; just know yours"

Follow-up Methods

Dawah Talk / Encouragment Talk

1. Brotherhood System
2. Commitment System

* Community Challenge

Questions…